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By *ADAM FITZ-ADAM.*

To be continued every THURSDAY.

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IT is with ſome degree of pride as well as pleaſure that I ſee my correſpondents multiply ſo faſt, that the taſk I have undertaken is become almoſt a fine cure. For many weeks paſt it has been entirely ſo, allowing only for ſome little alterations, which I judged it neceſſary to make in two or three eſſays; a liberty which I ſhall never take without the greateſt caution, and upon few other occaſions, than to give a general turn to what may poſſibly be applied to a particular character. To all men of genius and good-humour, who will favour me with their correſpondence, I ſhall think myſelf both honoured and obliged.

THE writer of the following letter will, I am ſure, forgive

forgive me for the few liberties I have taken with him. The grievance he complains of is a very great one, and what I ſhould imagine needs only to be mentioned to find redreſs.

To Mr. FITZ-ADAM.

SIR,

To gratify the curioſity of a country friend, I accompanied him a few weeks ago to Bedlam; a place which I ſhould not otherwiſe have viſited, as the diſtreſſes of my fellow-creatures affect me too much to incline me to be a ſpectator of them. I was extremely moved at the variety of wretches, who appeared either ſullen or outrageous, melancholy or chearful, according to their different diſpoſitions; and who ſeemed to retain, though inconſiſtently, the ſame paſſions and affections, as when in poſſeſſion of their reaſon. In one cell ſat a wretch upon his ſtraw, looking ſtedfaſtly upon the ground in ſilent deſpair. In another the ſpirit of ambition flaſhed from the eyes of an emperor, who ſtrutted the happy lord of the creation. Here a fearful miſer, having in fancy converted his rags to gold, ſat counting out his wealth, and trembling at all who ſaw him. There the prodigal was hurrying up and down his ward, and giving fortunes to thouſands. On one ſide a ſtraw-crowned king was delivering laws to his people, and on the other a huſband, mad indeed, was dictating to a wife that had undone him. Sudden fits of raving interrupted the ſolemn walk of the melancholy muſician, and ſettled deſpair ſat upon the pallid countenance of the love-ſick maid.

To thoſe who have feeling minds, there is nothing ſo affecting as ſights like theſe; nor can a better leſſon be taught us in any part of the globe than in this ſchool of miſery. Here we may ſee the mighty reaſoners of the earth

earth, below even the inſects that crawl upon it; and from ſo humbling a ſight we may learn to moderate our pride, and to keep thoſe paſſions within bounds, which if too much indulged, would drive reaſon from her ſeat, and level us with the wretches of this unhappy manſion. But I am ſorry to ſay it, curioſity and wantonneſs, more than a deſire of inſtruction, carry the majority of ſpectators to this diſmal place. It was in the Eaſter-week that I attended my friend there; when to my great ſurprize, I found a hundred people at leaſt, who having paid their two-pence a piece, were ſuffered unattended to run rioting up and down the wards, making ſport and diverſion of the miſerable inhabitants; a cruelty which one would hardly think human nature capable of! Surely if the utmoſt miſery of mankind is to be made a ſight of for gain, thoſe who are the governors of this hoſpital ſhould take care that proper perſons are appointed to attend the ſpectators; and not ſuffer indecencies to be committed, which would ſhock the humanity of the ſavage Indians. I ſaw ſome of the poor wretches provoked by the inſults of this holiday mob into furies of rage; and I ſaw the poorer wretches, the ſpectators, in a loud laugh of triumph at the ravings they had occaſioned.

In a country where chriſtianity is, at leaſt, profeſſed, it is ſtrange that humanity ſhould, in this inſtance, ſo totally have abandoned us; for however trifling this may appear to ſome particular perſons, I cannot help looking upon it as a reflection on the nation, and worthy the conſideration of all good men. I know it is a hard taſk to alter the wanton diſpoſitions of mankind; but it is not hard for men in power to hinder people from venting thoſe diſpoſitions on the unhappy objects in queſtion,

queſtion, of whom every governor is the guardian, and therefore bound to protect them from ſo cruel an outrage; an outrage, which is not only injurious to the poor wretches themſelves, but is alſo an inſult upon human nature. I hope, therefore, that for the future, the governors of this noble charity will think themſelves obliged in conſcience and honour to rectify an abuſe which is ſo great a diſcredit to it: or if they continue regardleſs of it, that you, Mr. Fitz-Adam, will pronounce every individual of them to be an accomplice in the barbarity.

And now, ſir, that I am upon the ſubject of madneſs, give me leave to hint to you an opinion which I have often entertained, and which my late viſit to Bedlam has again revived, That the maddeſt people in this kingdom are not *in*, but *out* of Bedlam. I have frequently compared in my own mind the actions of certain perſons whom we daily meet with in the world, with thoſe of the inhabitants of Bedlam, who, properly ſpeaking, may be ſaid to be out of it; and I know of no other difference between them, than that the former are mad with their reaſon about them, and the latter ſo from the misfortune of having loſt it. But what is extraordinary in this age, when, to its honour be it ſpoken, charity is become faſhionable, theſe unhappy wretches are ſuffered to run looſe about the town, raiſing riots in public aſſemblies, beating conſtables, breaking lamps, damning parſons, affronting modeſty, diſturbing families, and deſtroying their own fortunes and conſtitutions; and all this without any proviſion being made for them, or the leaſt attempt to cure them of this madneſs in their blood.

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THE miſerable objects I am ſpeaking of, are divided into two claſſes; the MEN OF SPIRIT ABOUT TOWN, and the BUCKS; the MEN OF SPIRIT have ſome glimmerings of underſtanding; the BUCKS none; the former are demoniacs, or people poſſeſſed; the latter are uniformly and incurably mad. For the reception and confinement of both theſe claſſes, I would humbly propoſe that two very ſpacious buildings be erected, the one called the hoſpital for MEN OF SPIRIT, or demoniacs; and the other the hoſpital for BUCKS or incurables. Of theſe hoſpitals I would have the keepers of our ſeveral Bridewells appointed governors, with full powers of conſtituting ſuch deputies or ſub-governors as to their wiſdom ſhall ſeem meet. That after ſuch hoſpitals are built, proper officers appointed, and doctors, ſurgeons, apothecaries and mad nurſes provided, all young noblemen and others within the bills of mortality, having common ſenſe, who ſhall be found offending againſt the rules of decency, either in the caſes above-mentioned, or in others of a ſimilar nature, ſhall immediately be conducted to the hoſpital for demoniacs, there to be exorciſed, phyſicked and diſciplined into a proper uſe of their ſenſes; and that full liberty be granted to all perſons whatſoever to viſit, laugh at, and make ſport of theſe demoniacs, without lett or moleſtation from any of the keepers, according to the preſent cuſtom of Bedlam. To the BUCK hoſpital for incurables I would have all ſuch perſons conveyed as are mad through folly, ignorance, or conceit; there to be ſhut up for life, not only to be prevented from doing miſchief, but from expoſing in their own perſons the weakneſſes and miſeries of mankind. Theſe incurables, on no pretence whatſoever, to be viſited or ridiculed; as it would be

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